

REMARKS

To expedite the issuance of this application with appropriate claim coverage, the following amendment to the claims and Remarks should serve to explain each of the related invention and their novel features.

COUNTERTOP WINDOW EMBODIMENT - FIGS. 22 AND 23

Claims 21, 22, and 27-30 are proposed to define the combination of Figs. 22 and 23, namely, the countertop version of this invention with the window in the top of the counter.

Despite the numerous patents uncovered by the Examiner in the parent application and the applicant relating to aerial image devices, plus newly uncovered prior art related directly or indirectly to aerial-image system, no one has achieved a countertop version nor the unique optics which used to produce a countertop aerial image device. In this embodiment, the viewing window forms a part of the top surface of the housing and this allows the aerial image to appear to rest upon the window itself and the partly silvered beamsplitter is positioned parallel to the window. This is unique in the aerial image world. This is not merely a change of detail. It demonstrates a fundamentally significant advance in aerial images and opens a whole new opportunity for use in retail establishments, such as jewelry stores, where valuable jewelry can be kept in a safe, locked chamber in the housing, while a realistic, real aerial image appears as if it is above or resting on the window. Claim 21 specifies that the window is in the top surface.

In claim 22, claim 22 identifies the window in the countertop aerial device as constituting at least a portion of the top side of the housing. This presents to the customer/observer a planar counter top, partly in glass. The glass is part of the optical system, while also functioning as part of the countertop.

Claim 27, dependent upon claim 21, and bearing the novelty of that combination, employs a low-cost, but effective plastic mirror and should be allowed.

Claim 28, as rewritten, specifies that the housing includes a portion which is position between the object to be displayed and the window whereby the object may not be seen directly in the window. This is unique to aerial-image systems, since the window is in the top wall.

This is clearly illustrated in Fig. 22 where the shelf (unnumbered) supporting beamsplitter 251 blocks direct vision of object DO through the glass top window.

Another major difference from any prior aerial image device is further defined in claim 29 in which the half-silvered beamsplitter in the drawing Fig. 22, item 251, is positioned generally parallel to the window. In no other prior art, to my knowledge, is or could the beamsplitter be positioned parallel to the window and function in prior art devise.

Claim 30 specifically states that the window constitutes an apparent support for the aerial image. This eliminates the need for an exterior support as shown in Fig. 1 of this application and provides a dual use for the system window. This is also consistent with a requirement or at least common usage of a retail counter to support an actual object being considered for purchase by a customer.

In this case, it is the aerial image which the customer can view in its real image form and the customer even attempt to touch without making the object shopworn or subject to theft. A degree of reality and safety heretofore never achieved in the retail environment results. This is believed to constitute a significant advance in aerial image devices and in retailing. Therefore, claims 21, 22, and 27 through 30 are believed properly allowed, such action requested.

TOTALLY ENCLOSED OBJECT TO VIDEO DISPLAY SYSTEM - FIG. 18

Despite the history of aerial images going as far back as 1929, with the Curry U.S. Patent 1,699,689, to date the prior art has not disclosed the combination of claim 31 as illustrated in Fig. 18 in which a complete closed circuit video system and the object to be presented are all located within the display housing. This, again, is particularly useful in displaying small valuable products, such as jewelry or watches, where the actual object, the actual camera, and the actual video display are utilized to produce an aerial image of the actual object while they all remain hidden and secure within the housing. This is a significant step beyond prior art video systems, and claim 31 should be allowed.

In this context of a complete video system wherein an object (1), camera lighting (2), and video display system (3) are all contained within a single housing. Dependent claims 32 is unique and novel and should be allowed. This combination with the addition of claim 33 with an exterior support should be allowed. The exterior support not only results in the production of a realistic image but in a realistic environment on a support but encourages attempts to touch the object for added unique experience not

hereto realized. Claim 33 should also be allowed.

IMPROVED MIRROR MOUNT SYSTEM - FIGS. 2, 4, 7, AND 9

Claim 40, which defines an aerial image system with an effective low-cost, secure system for mirror mounting without any rigid bracketry, as illustrated in Figs. 2, 4, and in more detail in Figs. 7, and 9, also is unshown and unrecognized by the prior art and should be allowed.

CLOCK RADIO-TYPE AERIAL-IMAGE SYSTEM - FIGS. 12 AND 13

The Examiner has previously allowed claims 41 and 42 in which the applicant has utilized the rear wall of the housing as the mirror, when metallized, and has illustrated it in its preferred embodiment as Figs. 12 and 13 as a clock radio. The renewed allowance of these claims directed to the embodiment, claims 41, 42, will be appreciated.

BEDSIDE VIDEO AERIAL-IMAGE SYSTEM - FIGS. 14 AND 15

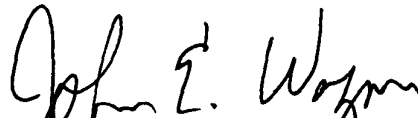
The same concept of utilizing an inner wall of the housing has a mirror is likewise applicable as illustrated in Figs. 14 and 15 to present a video image outside of the housing suitable for use as a small bedside video. For this reason, new claim 43 of the same feature as claim 42 but with a different object in, namely, a video display is present in claim 43. It is submitted that claim 43 and similar novelty to the previously allowed claims 41 and 42 should likewise be allowed.

With the foregoing changes, it is believed that it is now possible to rapidly bring

this prosecution to a close with a properly allowed scope of protection for each of these embodiments.

It is, therefore, requested that upon entrance of this amendment, claims 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, (37,38 previously allowed), 40, (41,42 previously allowed), the new claims 43 and 44 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

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